UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1996/L.8/Add.2
5 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-sixth session (Part II)
26 August-6 September 1996

DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 1. Political affairs

1. At its 18th, 19th and 21st meetings, on 13, 14 and 17 June 1996, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 1, Political affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed support for the programme, while others considered that the programme did not fully reflect views expressed in various forums, in particular as regards subprogramme 3, Disarmament.

3. Several delegations queried whether all activities proposed to be carried out under the programme were mandated, and some proposed inclusion of relevant legislative mandates under this programme as well as others. Other delegations believed that the programme identified the new tasks and mandates for the Department for Political Affairs in preventive action, peace-making and post-conflict peace-building.

4. One delegation stated that there appeared to be overlapping of objectives between subprogrammes 1 and 2. It was explained that the services provided

under subprogramme 2 extended beyond those of subprogramme 1 as they related to non-conflict situations that were beyond the scope of subprogramme 1.

5. Several delegations queried the United Nations role in enhancing the capacity of regional organizations in early warning and preventive peace-making and peace-building, referred to in paragraph 1.7. Other delegations emphasized the importance of contacts between the Department and the regional organizations.

6. Several delegations indicated that emphasis seemed to be placed on the servicing aspects of subprogramme 3, Disarmament, rather than its substantive and technical features. Many delegations were concerned that subprogramme 3 emphasized the micro rather than the macro aspects of disarmament such as nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and conventional weapons.

7. Several delegations indicated that the use of phraseology such as "post-disarmament problems" (para. 1.15) and "disarmament as an essential component/a tool of preventive diplomacy and peace-building" (paras. 1.16 and 1.18) had not been agreed to in disarmament forums.

8. Some delegations questioned the basis on which it was stated in subprogramme 1.3 that the positive outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had opened up a more promising path to nuclear disarmament and noted the absence of the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons in the subprogramme.

9. Many delegations indicated there was no consensus regarding the meaning of potential conflicts. Many delegations also disagreed with the mention of the Register of Conventional Arms as an important confidence-building measure as well as its possible regional variants. Other delegations reaffirmed the importance they attached to the Register. The need for giving priority to developing countries in activities regarding fellowships, training and advisory services was also pointed out by several delegations.

10. Some delegations expressed the view that the importance to be accorded to the disarmament subprogramme was such that it should be presented as a separate programme. It was pointed out, however, that the proposed medium-term plan had been drafted on the basis of an agreed format that had been recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the General Assembly. The format had been devised to permit a clearer alignment between programmes and organizational units so that accountability would be enhanced.

11. Some delegations regretted that General Assembly resolutions 48/124 of 20 December 1993 and 49/180 of 23 December 1994 had not been cited as legislative mandates of activities regarding electoral assistance.

12. Some delegations were of the view that greater emphasis could have been placed on the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, while others regarded the work of the Special Committee as being largely accomplished, so that significant changes would not be expected during the plan period.

13. Some delegations stated that the overall objectives of the programme must include the promotion and realization by all peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation of their right to self-determination, since denial of that right had been and was a cause of conflict situation.

14. Several delegations expressed their support for subprogramme 1.7, Question of Palestine, while others expressed reservations. Others queried the need for continued expansion of the United Nations computer-based information system on the question of Palestine (UNISPAL) and suggested that the need was for continued maintenance.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 1, Political affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 1.1: In the first sentence, add the words "and resolutions" after the word "Charter" and delete the second sentence;

(b) [Paragraph 1.3: [In the fifth line of the paragraph following the words "and by", add "mandates provided by"]; in the sixth line of the paragraph, after the words "Security Council", add the words "which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security" and [delete the words "as well as in other resolutions of those bodies in the fields of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building, disarmament affairs, electoral assistance and the provision of secretariat services to principal organs" at the end of the sentence]];

(c) Paragraph 1.4(b): Following the word "conflicts", add "that threaten international peace and security and";

(d) Paragraph 1.4 (d): Replace the paragraph with the following:

"Assistance to the Security Council and the Secretary-General in carrying out activities mandated by the General Assembly, the Council and the Charter in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building";

(e) Paragraph 1.4 (h): Delete the words "as well as the Trusteeship Council if the need arises";

(f) Paragraph 1.5: In the first sentence, replace the words "a dramatic" with "an" and add the word "international" before "peace and security"; and in the second sentence, after the word "responsibilities", add "for the pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and";

(g) Paragraph 1.6: In the first sentence, replace the words "A second objective is" with "It would also be necessary", and add the words "that threaten international peace and security" after "conflicts"; at the end of the

second sentence, after "conflicts" add the words ", and the General Assembly and the Security Council to be advised accordingly"; and in the third sentence, add the phrase "post-conflict" before the word "peace-building";

(h) Paragraph 1.7: In the first sentence, replace the word "disputes" with "threats to international peace and security"; in the second sentence, add the word "accordingly" after "will"; in the third sentence, delete the words "in particular, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs," and ", so that the relevant departments function as an integrated whole under the authority and control of the Secretary-General to address complex issues of a multifaceted nature"; in the fourth sentence, replace the words "complex operations in the field" with "peace-keeping operations"; and [in the last sentence, add the words "in accordance with provisions of the Charter and, as appropriate," after "Political Affairs", add the word "relevant" after "organizations" and add "post-conflict" before "peace-building"];

(i) Paragraph 1.8: In the first sentence, add the words "by the Security Council or" after "dispatched" and in the second sentence, add the word "post-conflict" before "peace-building";

(j) Paragraph 1.9: Delete the second sentence and replace with "During the period 1998-2001, the Secretary-General, in implementing this subprogramme, will continue his efforts to enhance the Organization's capacity in the field of preventive diplomacy and peace-making."

(k) Paragraph 1.10: In the first sentence, replace "quiet diplomacy" with "good offices" and at the end of the sentence add "while fully respecting the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, [as well as the principle of consent]; and in the last sentence, replace the words "especially the definition of the political objectives of peace-building activities and their planning and coordination" with "as approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies";

(l) Paragraph 1.11: In the second sentence, add the word "international" before "peace and security";

(m) Paragraph 1.12: In the third sentence, add the word "international" before "peace and security" and at the end of the sentence add "as well as Member States through the Secretary-General"; and in the last sentence, add the word "relevant" after "Contact with" and delete ", relevant non-governmental organizations and other private academic and research institutes";

(n) [Subprogramme 1.3 Disarmament and all related paragraphs, 1.13 to 1.18. To present subprogramme 1.3, "Disarmament", as a new independent programme in the medium-term plan];

(o) [Paragraph 1.13: Replace the paragraph with the following: "Recent positive changes in international relations have allowed for significant progress on a number of disarmament and [non-proliferation/arms control] issues. The outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has, among other developments, [pointed to the need to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects/underlined the [international community's] resolve to constrain the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction]. However, [further] substantive measures [are required/have been suggested] in order to advance the process towards the ultimate goal of elimination of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament [within a time-bound framework]. Problems related, inter alia, to [the unrestricted transfer of] conventional weapons remain a concern. There are also continuing problems relating to, inter alia, [the proliferation of] small arms, [all types of] landmines and the [illicit] trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials."];

(p) Paragraph 1.14 Replace the words "organizational and substantive secretariat support" with "substantive and secretariat services";

(q) [Paragraph 1.15: Replace the paragraph with the following: "A second objective is to follow and assess current and future trends in the field of disarmament and international security in order to enable the Secretary-General to render appropriate assistance to Member States in their search for agreement. Apart from substantive issues involved in the deliberative and/or negotiating process, [this activity/the Secretary-General] will also address the challenges arising from the implementation of disarmament agreements. [In this regard, particular attention should be paid, inter alia, to the conclusion and entry into force of a comprehensive test-ban treaty; the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons and their complete elimination over a time-frame period; the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; and other activities, such as the relationship between disarmament and development and the impact of disarmament on the environment."] ["Furthermore, as part of the mandate given to him in the field of transparency and confidence-building measures, the Secretary-General will continue to maintain the Register of Conventional Arms."]];

(r) [Paragraph 1.16: Replace the paragraph with the following: "Since regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other, a third objective will be to promote global and regional disarmament efforts and initiatives as [an essential/a] component of preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building. Regional solutions will be more vigorously pursued as regional conflicts increasingly pose a threat to peace and security, subject to an agreed definition of the region concerned by and with the consent of all parties. Regional dialogue on crucial disarmament and security issues will be advanced through the organization of conferences [subject to the consent of all parties in the region]. Efforts will be made to promote confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels with a view to promoting security and disarmament. Member States will be assisted in addressing specific disarmament concerns through the provision of training, fellowships and advisory services"];

(s) [Paragraph 1.17 Replace the paragraph with the following: "The fourth objective consists of providing impartial, factual information on the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions, and specialized non-governmental

organizations through the disarmament information programme and disarmament database of the centres. This would include the organization of disarmament conferences, seminars and workshops for informal exchanges of views on topical issues of arms control, disarmament and international security. The disarmament fellowship programme will continue to be pursued with the primary objective of promoting further the disarmament expertise of Member States, particularly in the developing countries."];

(t) [Paragraph 1.17 bis: Add a new paragraph to read: "A fifth objective would be to continue to inform the public on an objective and updated basis as to United Nations disarmament activities, utilizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament established in Nepal, Peru and Togo, as well as to maintain its role as part of the United Nations disarmament information programme. Voluntary contributions to the fund for the centres should be encouraged"] and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly;

(u) Paragraph 1.18: Replace the words "contribute to an integrated approach to issues relating to the maintenance of peace and security using disarmament as a tool of preventive diplomacy and peace-building" with "focus on the importance of disarmament and confidence-building measures as a tool for strengthening the process of post-conflict peace-building, as appropriate";

(v) Paragraph 1.19: In the first sentence, add the words "and in accordance with the decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly" after "request";

(w) Paragraph 1.21: Replace the first sentence with the following: "During the plan period, this subprogramme will contribute to an integrated approach to the maintenance of international peace and security through the provision of electoral assistance by the Secretariat, at the request of Member States, as a means of supporting the Organization's efforts in preventive, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building activities";

(x) [Paragraph 1.30: Replace the paragraph with the following: "The fifth objective of this subprogramme is [to ensure the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples] and, in accordance with established practice and the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to [provide/assist the United Nations through provision of] substantive services to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration and to follow up on the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Assembly"];

(y) Paragraph 1.31: Delete the entire paragraph and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly;

(z) Paragraph 1.34: Replace the word "States" with "parties";

(aa) Paragraph 1.35: Replace the words "Palestine Liberation Organization" with "Palestinian National Authority";

(bb) Paragraph 1.36: Add the words "and concerned" after "prominent".